31st December 1953]

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—"May I know why preliminary arrangements have not been made already? When there is an Act limiting the term of Special Officers of the District Boards till the end of March 1954, why should not action have been taken in time for holding the elections?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"We were in the midst of Andhra partition. Now we are making arrangements to hold the elections before June next."

Constitution of the Panchayat Boards of Arkonam, Arcot and Ranipet into municipalities.

*42 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to constitute Arkonam, Arcot and Ranipet Panchayat Boards into municipalities, and if so, when?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"No, Sir. The latter part of the question does not arise."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—"May I know the population and income of these panchayat boards?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"When the proposal is not on hand, how can I be expected to have information about population and other things? When the proposal comes, we can find out the income, population and other things."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—"Was there not a definite proposal mooted to constitute Arkonam into a municipality?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"There was a proposal in 1949–50. But, because of protests made by the public and the Panchayat Board unanimously, the proposal was dropped in 1950."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—"Is there no set principle as to the minimum income and population for upgrading panchayat boards into municipalities?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—"If the population is above 20,000 and if the income is nearly Rs. 1,00,000, we can form a municipality."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Audit of the accounts of the Hindu religious institutions.

1 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Registration be pleased to state—

(a) the arrangement made for the periodical audit of the accounts of the Hindu religious institutions in this State;

(b) whether any audit fee is levied for the above purpose and collected from the temple funds;

(c) for what period audit has been completed; and